

Press Release

To: Arkansas Media
From: Robert J. Alvey, Communications Manager
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CC: Governor's Office
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 1999
Re: Governor's Proclamation: Small Business Y2K Action Week

Small Business National Video Conference on Y2K Available at UALR on April 1

Governor Proclaims March 29-April 2 Small Business Y2K Action Week

How does the Y2K problem threaten small businesses – even those without computers? With eight months remaining, what should small business owners do? Where can small business owners get resources and technical assistance?

One tool in the compliance process is an interactive video conference scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 1999, noon to 1:30 P.M. "Talking Points on National Small Business Y2K Action Week USDA Video" can be attended for free at the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2301 S. University Ave.

Governor Mike Huckabee has declared March 29-April 2 as Small Business Y2K Action Week to answer these questions, and is encouraging small businesses to take steps to ensure Year 2000 compliance.

During Small Business Y2K Action Week, the State of Arkansas Year 2000 Project Office, the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Commerce, and other agencies are focusing on how small businesses can prepare for the century date change through seminars and training events held across the United States.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will broadcast the program nationally, via satellite. The program is designed to increase awareness among small business owners concerning the threat that Year 2000 computer and embedded chip problems pose to their business. The program will also identify available resources from the USDA, the Small Business Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other agencies. It will show what small businesses can do to prepare with eight months remaining until January 1, 2000.

The broadcast will feature experts from the Rural Development Mission Area and the Small Business Administration, including Dr. Willem Bakker, director of the Iowa State Manufacturing Technology Center, an expert on Y2K and small businesses. It will be moderated by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

In addition to the satellite broadcast, seminars and other training events designed for small businesses are being held across the United States, made possible through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Commerce, the USDA, and the Small Business Administration.

Small Business Y2K Action Week is designed to (1) persuade those business people who have not yet taken action on the problem to do so, and (2) connect small business people with free or low-cost, user-friendly Y2K tools and technical assistance. The Small Business Administration's website, <http://www.sba.gov/y2k/actionwk.html> (,) also contains information about other activities scheduled during the week, as well as material for organizations interested in Y2K events.

For additional information on the April 1 video conference and Y2K, visit <http://www.usda.gov/aphis/FSWG/smallbusiness.html> (.)

Other websites offering assistance with Y2K include the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at <http://www.mep.nist.gov/index1.html> (,) and the State of Arkansas Year 2000 Project Office at <http://www.y2k.state.ar.us/> (.)

Y2K week videoconference notice/Network/News